DC

12

THE FLASH

SPURRIER
PÉREZ
GEORGIEV
HERMS

FLASH FAMILY REUNITED

13+
TEEN

DAWN OF DC

LAST STAND ON PARADISE ISLAND!

ABSOLUTE POWER #3

POWERLESS HEROES TEAM WITH ELITE AMAZONS IN THE LATEST BLOCKBUSTER CHAPTER FROM **MARK WAID** and **DAN MORA!**

SEPTEMBER

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JON KENT FIGHTS BACK AS ABSOLUTE POWER CONTINUES

SEPTEMBER:

ABSOLUTE POWER #3

ABSOLUTE POWER: TASK FORCE VII #6

ABSOLUTE POWER: SUPER SON #1

ABSOLUTE POWER: TASK FORCE VII #7

ABSOLUTE POWER: ORIGINS #3

TIE-INS:

BATMAN #152

GREEN LANTERN #15

SUPERMAN #18

WONDER WOMAN #13

GREEN ARROW #16

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DON'T MISS THE FATEFUL FINALE IN OCTOBER!

ISSUE TWELVE:
"UNTIL TIME STANDS STILL"

WRITTEN BY
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& VASCO GEORGIEV

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It falls.

This frenzied, fractal abomination. Into the ***dream,*** it falls.

A billion hateful lives, rendered paradoxical--antithetical to all math--by their violations of the timeline.

A billion cruel, mocking voices. ***Reality poison.***

It falls.

Into the ***fountain-head of time.***

The puppet masters pull away. Strings abandoned. Nothing now but to ***observe,*** with insincere composure, the assassination of all things.

And ***he?*** The ***carrier.***

The ***conduit.***

The indifferent little killer.

He drifts at the event horizon of eternity--

--and feels ***nothing***.

WHERE, uh--

--WHERE DID THE KIDS GO?

ONE MINUTE THEY WERE HERE, THE NEXT--

I CAN FEEL HIM!

Uh. JAI? WHAT'S--

IT'S DAD! HE'S BACK! I CAN SENSE HIM!

Yeah. That.

I THINK HE'S IN DANGER. WH-WHATEVER WAS STOPPING ME FROM JUMPING TO HIM-- IT'S GONE. HE'S BACK IN OUR UNIVERSE.

WHERE?

HE'S--mm-- HE'S ***INSIDE*** THE SPEED FORCE, NEAR

TO WHERE THE ***HIGHEST VIBRATION***

ELIDES WITH INFINITY. Yes. I have a reading. WHY ***THERE?***

DOESN'T MATTER! HE'D HELP--

--US! WE HAVE TO ***GO*** TO HIM!

ANY, *uh*... ANYONE KNOW HOW TO TRANSCEND THAT HIGH?

REMEMBER-- WE DO NOT ***BREAK*** THE BARRIER.

WE ***EMBRACE*** IT.

WE BREATHE THE LIGHTNING.

WE ***RISE.***

AND--?

WE DO NOT STOP.

LINDA'S IN THE BATHROOM. WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THE BABY TO HER?

ALL THIS AMBIENT ***ENERGY*** MAKES US HUNGRY.

uh. SURE.

HEY, CUTIE.

Wait-- whaddaya mean, "us"?

BLIP

DAD?

LINDA?

LIN? YOU *IN* HERE?

DAD, IT'S... IT'S JAI. ARE YOU-- *Oh no.* ARE YOU **ALIVE?**

DAD! I'M **SORRY!** I DIDN'T MEAN TO... TO DRIVE YOU AWAY... ...to ***disappoint*** *you...*

LINDA-- *damn--* WHAT'S...

SORRY. LINDA'S NOT HOME RIGHT NOW.

It's all my fault!

WHY CAN'T I-- WHY CAN'T I GET **CLOSE** TO YOU?!

JAI. IT'S **OKAY.**

I CAN REACH HIM.

Mom?!

GO. HELP THE OTHERS.

BUT--

JAI.

YOU ARE **INCREDIBLE,** MY BOY. LIKE **ALL** MY FAMILY. YOU DID **NOT** CAUSE THIS.

GO **USE YOUR GIFT.**

YOUR DAD AND I NEED TO TALK.

Y'know, I WAS HEARTBROKEN **TOO.** AFTER MY MIND CAME BACK. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T COME FIND ME. You **always** find me.

BUT THEN I REALIZED.

IT WAS BECAUSE I'D FOUND YOU.

THAT TWO-BIT FRAUD, **ABRA KADABRA.** WHATEVER WEIRD NEW TECH HE'D GOT HIS HANDS ON, IT LET HIM... **STRIP** MY MIND.

MY **CURIOSITY.** MY **PRIDE.** MY **LOVE.**

HE STOLE THE WAY I SEE **YOU,** WALLY.

HOW HARD YOU TRY. HOW MUCH YOU GIVE.

I WAS SO **LOST** ALREADY. SO DOWN. THE BABY... LOSING MY POWERS... I FELT...**WORTHLESS.** BUT HE MADE IT SO MUCH WORSE.

HE RIPPED OUT ALL THE THINGS THAT **MATTERED**-- ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE ME PART OF **US**-- AND HE THREW THEM AWAY. LIKE **RAGS.**

AND THEY FOUND YOU.

"IN THE LONELIEST PLACE, WALLY... IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU FORGOT TO LOVE YOURSELF... THEY FOUND YOU. THOSE MISSING PARTS OF ME.

"I FOUND YOU.

"AS I ALWAYS WILL."

L-Linda...?

The conduit blinks. And as the ***storm*** that is his ***life*** pours back into his scarred psyche--

--the ***barriers of perception*** peel back like petals.

And together ***they see.***

The family.

Racing to retrieve their lost member.

And he weeps.

He weeps the grateful tears of a man remembering what it is to ***belong.***

He weeps with ***pride*** for them all.

They... they ***never*** stopped...

Wait. **THE WEAPON!**

IT'S-- IT'S ALREADY PAST THE WALL!

LINDA, I NEED TO **STOP THE WEAPON!**

But *ohhh*... it has passed beyond his sight... beyond all natural knowing...

...It falls with such malicious speed... ***so close*** to impact...

...And ***he?*** He who has crossed infinity. He who has charted the curve of the cosmic corner. He has nothing left to give.

Wally...?!

Nothing to ***hang on*** with.

WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH HIM?

HE'S EXHAUSTED. HIS AURA'S FAILING. HE-- HE NEEDS HELP, BUT-- ***GEDDOWN!***

THESE STUPID ***MIGRAINE MONSTERS*** ARE ***EVERYWHERE!***

...The heck?

Whoa.

WHO *ARE* THEY?

Heh!

IREY? WHAT DID YOU *DO*?

Eh, NO BIG DEAL. I GAVE AWAY THE DITIL--DISTIR... THE ***CONCENTRATED SPEED FORCE JUICE.***

TO *WHO?*

Look, DON'T WORRY-- IT WON'T LAST LONG. THEY WERE KINDA ***PISSY*** AT THESE WIBBLY EYEBALL THINGS NOT KEEPIN' UP THEIR DEAL, AND I JUST THOUGHT, *hey*--

--NO SUCH THING AS ***REAL*** BAD GUYS, IS THERE? JUST DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW.

You've been reading Mom's op-eds again.

I DON'T GET IT, THUNDER-HEART. WHO ***ARE*** TH--

CHILD! THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR ***JUSTICE...*** THE HOUSE OF ***GRODD*** IS IN YOUR DEBT.

Wait. THESE ARE ***VILLAINS?!***

CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS--

--AND THE THINGS YOU LOOK AT WILL CHANGE.

old fold fold
fold **fold** fo
ld fold fold fo
old fold fol
fold fo

LIARS!
FALSE GODS!
WHERE IS THE DIVINE REWARD YOU PROMISED?!

GET TAE #@%€, YE RADGIE %*@#£!

See?
EVEN THE OUTCAST CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER WORLD IF TREATED WITH ***OPPORTUNITY*** AND EMPI... empa...
...NICENESS!

Also, this distraction *totally* won't last long, so, ya know...
...tick tock.

They don't need to be told twice.

Clenching teeth, straining sinews. Burning with power. Burning with ***love.***

The family rises.

YOU'RE THE ***BEST,*** MR. WEST!

YOU'RE AN ***INSPIRATION,*** SIR. NEVER STOP!

ONE DAY, WALLY. JUST LIKE ***YOU.***

Falling back into the mundane frequencies with each boost--

KEEP IT UP, WAL! YOU GOT THIS.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON! ***I LOVE IT!***

IT'S, *uh*-- ***HUMBLING*** TO MEET YOU, SIR. THE FUTURE SINGS YOUR NAME.

--each ***lift***--

YOU'RE DOIN' ***GREAT,*** KID.

BREATHE, SON. AND BE ***BREATHED.***

--each show of ***faith.***

A funnel forms around the conduit. A ***whirlpool*** to the highest vibrations. A ***crack*** in the Source Wall.

At its rim? An ***iniquitous rear guard*** holds the line.

Fueled with the fury of the betrayed, the villains will provide only a ***temporary delay.***

They are swiftly ***excoriated.*** All knowledge of these events-- all ***motive*** and ***gratitude***-- evaporates like desert dew.

The villains stumble off to the lower frequencies. The slowest is struck by a spiteful backhand-- and casually ***unwritten.***

Evan McCulloch will not be mourned. He never existed.

And it is now, far above these tawdry antics, in this iota of ***silence,*** at reality's shrillest pitch--

--that the weapon finds its ***target.***

On a quadrillion worlds, the great ***stream***--

--the great ***dream***--

--***time itself***--

--***slows*** and ***sputters.***

Time-travelers cry out-- ***memories*** scorched by purged futures.

Higher elementals ***shudder***-- and ***evaporate.***

Unthreaded from causality.

For all its monumental repercussions, only the ***linchpins of reality*** feel the deceleration. Those whose very being is woven into the weft of the ***all.***

For ***most*** minds? The death rattle of ***chronology*** is as gentle and unnoticed as a serene drift into a dreamless sleep.

Or into death.

And yet there are those who will not go softly into the stillness...

HA-AAA-AA!

HEED NOW THE ARC ANGLES, LITTLE PARASITES.

CEASE YOUR STRUGGLE.

Wh-**WHAT'S**--

THE **POISON** IS **DEPLOYED.** YOUR CONDUITS ARE **COLLAPSING.** TIME DIES NOW.

L-L-LIKE **POOP** IT DOES.

DAD?

DAD, WE'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

WE BELIEVE IN YOU. DON'T GIVE UP, DAD.

EVEN WHEN YOU THINK IT'S ALL OVER. ***NEVER GIVE UP.***

YOU TAUGHT US THAT.

K-K-KIDS? I... *I love y--*

And then it's just him.

Already too late.

Just him, chasing a bullet that's already hit.

Just him.

And then it's just ***them***.

And there aren't the words.

All they've been through.

All they've shared.

The failures.

The victories.

The lessons.

The arguments.

The losses.

The endless comparisons.

The older man wants to say:
I'm sorry. I was so busy waiting for you to need me, I wasn't there when you did.

Wants to say:
I couldn't do all that you do.

Wants to say:
It has been the joy of my life to see the boy you were become the man you are.

But there isn't time. Soon there will never be time again. And so what he **does**... all he can do...

THE ***BLADE,*** WALLY. IT'S STILL BOUND TO YOU. WE GOTTA CUT OUT THE POISON BEFORE IT SPREADS.

SNIKT

...is to take the hand of the son he never had. To share the weight of an instrument of perfect stillness.

And all he can say?

I'M PROUD OF YOU, WALLY.

And they slice the evil out of infinity.

TO BE CONTINUED...

REMEMBERING AN ICON
TRINA ROBBINS
1938-2024

Trina Robbins

WELL, I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS A FEW YEARS.

IT WOULD BE GROSSLY NAIVE AND PRESUMPTUOUS TO THINK THAT A COMIC BOOK CAN CHANGE THE WORLD'S THINKING.

--BUT IT DOESN'T HURT TO TRY.

FROM A STORY
WRITTEN BY **GEORGE PÉREZ**,
DRAWN BY **RAMONA FRADON**,
COLORED BY **SHELLEY EIBER**,
AND LETTERED BY **CARRIE SPIEGLE**

IN HONOR OF
TRINA ROBBINS.

ALL IN

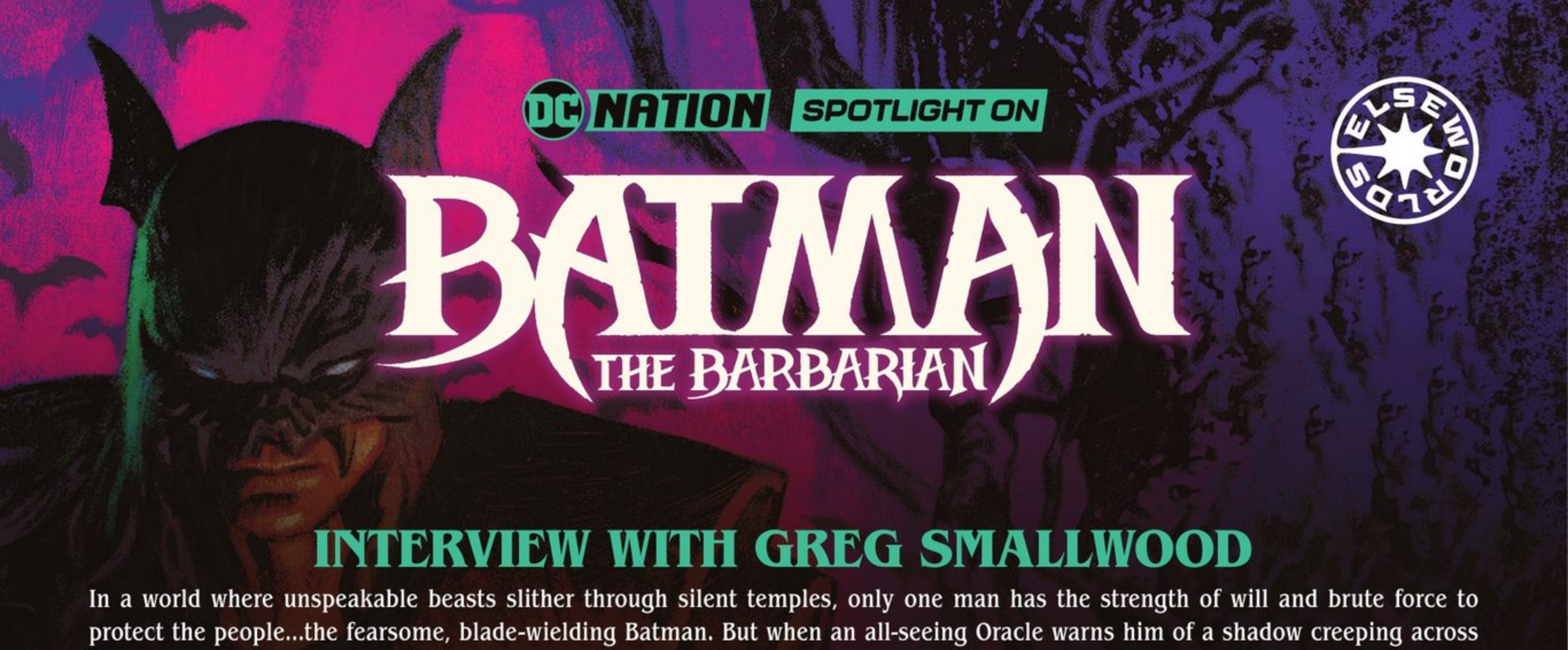
Oversize one-shot flipbook on sale in **OCTOBER**

Darkseid is. **Darkseid was.**

Two universes. **One prophecy.**

IT ALL STARTS IN
DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON • SCOTT SNYDER
DANIEL SAMPERE • WES CRAIG



DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN THE BARBARIAN

ELSEWORLDS

INTERVIEW WITH GREG SMALLWOOD

In a world where unspeakable beasts slither through silent temples, only one man has the strength of will and brute force to protect the people...the fearsome, blade-wielding Batman. But when an all-seeing Oracle warns him of a shadow creeping across the land, he will have to contend with foes that can't be dispatched by sword alone. DC Nation sat down with Eisner Award-winning artist Greg Smallwood to discuss both writing and illustrating this Elseworlds epic.

What does it mean to be contributing to the relaunch of the iconic Elseworlds line?

Well, the comic obviously draws inspiration from those classic Elseworlds tales I grew up with. It's a unique thrill to be able to play in the DC sandbox with characters like Batman while also having the freedom to take them into entirely new realms and situations. That blend of deep lore and imaginative exploration is what makes Elseworlds so exciting.

What has it been like to not only draw this story, but write it as well?

Writing and drawing this story has been a blast. My previous DC project, *The Human Target*, was a perfect match for my artistic style, as its noir aesthetic aligned with my sensibilities. However, when it comes to sword and sorcery, I knew that not every aspect of the genre would naturally gel with me as an artist or visual storyteller. What the writing allows me to do is find that balance between the genre's conventions and my own little idiosyncrasies.

Have you always been a fan of this kind of rugged sword-and-sorcery world, and why do you think it works well for Batman?

I've been a huge fan of sword and sorcery ever since I was a teen, but the big appeal for me is simply the visual aesthetics of the genre. When I was a kid, sword-and-sorcery paperbacks and VHS boxes would always catch my eye; the amazing covers promised grand epics with spellbinding visuals and captivating characters. My goal with *Batman the Barbarian* is to deliver on that promise.

Can you tease fans with your favorite scene from the first issue?

We've seen Batman's origin countless times, but it was really fun to put my own spin on it. I won't say any more than that.

Can you describe this series in five words?

Visceral, raw, and action-packed.

DON'T MISS
BATMAN THE BARBARIAN #1,
ON SALE THIS SEPTEMBER!

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